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### (54) Coiler apparatus and method

(57) A coiler apparatus for forming flat coils of textile strands from an upstream strand supply and depositing the coils on a moving conveyor belt (50) for transport downstream to a strand processing station. The coiler apparatus includes a driven rotating arm (18) for forming successive vertical coils of a textile strand received by the rotating arm from the upstream strand supply, a coil support (30) for receiving and supporting each vertical coil as it is formed by the rotating arm, a coil doffer (40) positioned proximate a lower extent of the coil support

for progressively doffing a lower portion of successive ones of the coils from the coil support in advance of an upper portion of the coils, and a coil guide (36,37,38) extending downstream from the coil doffer (40) for guiding the upper portion of the coils off of the coil support as the lower portion of the coils is doffed by the coil doffer, and for permitting a controlled transition of the coils from their vertical orientation into an array of overlapping, stretched-out coils on the moving conveyor belt (50).

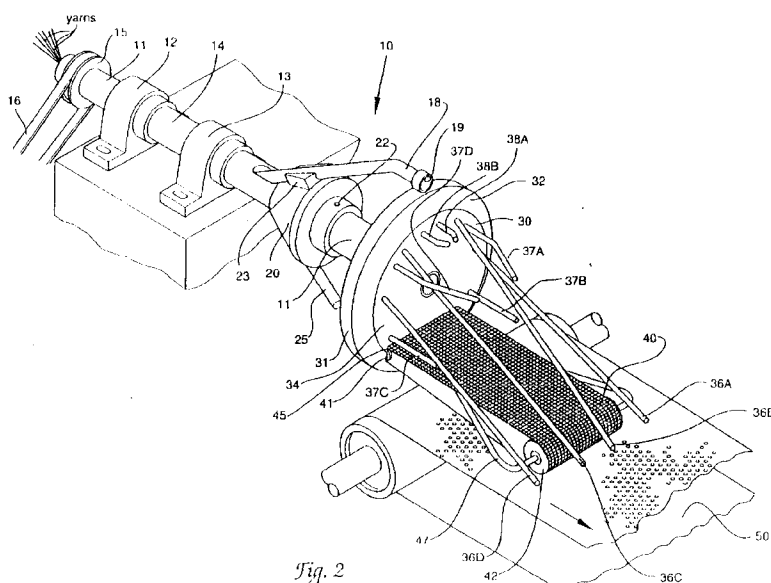


Fig. 2

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 0109

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	US 3 120 689 A (W.W. DRUMMOND) 11 February 1964 * the whole document *	1-18	B65H54/82
Y	US 3 443 605 A (J.C. BITTMAN; J.H. MILES) 13 May 1969 * the whole document *	1-18	
A	DE 15 60 007 A (H. BUDDECKE) 17 July 1969		
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B65H D06B D01D B21C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 7 October 1998	Examiner D'Hulster, E
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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